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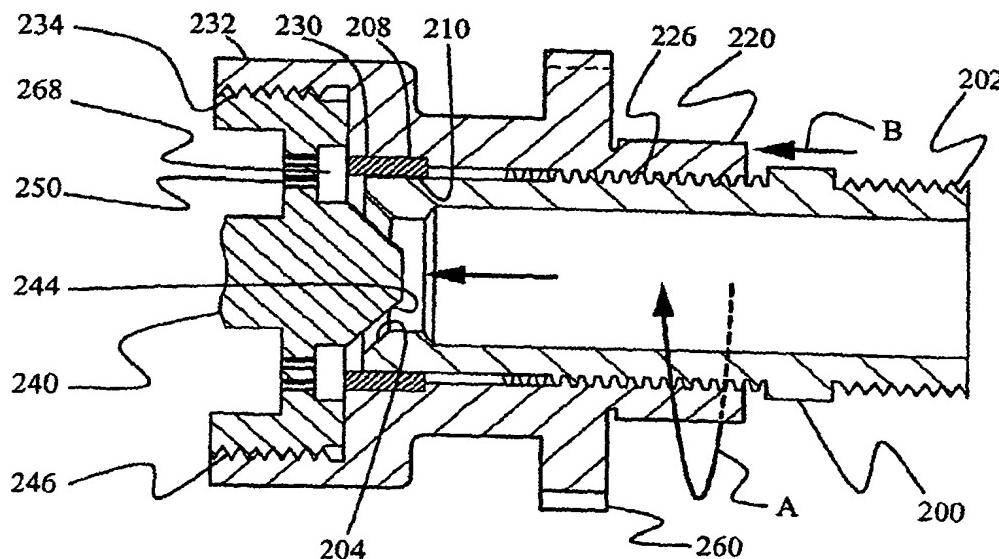
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: VARIABLE DIE FOR USE IN DRYING SYNTHETIC ELASTOMERS



(57) Abstract: Apparatus and methodologies are provided for flash drying liquid materials using a variable die (110). A die or filter screen (240) and a die body (200) are provided with an adjustably configured pressure regulating variable obstruction in the form of opposing conical surfaces (204 and 244) that allows control of the temperature of the material as it enters the die (240). Optimizing pressure and temperature allows optimization of the flash drying process.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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 US CL : 425/191; 34/386, 387, 398; 159/2.2, 47.1

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : 425/191; 34/386, 387, 398; 159/2.2, 47.1, 2.3

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3,225,453 A (BURNER) 28 December 1965 (28.12.1965), see figures 3 and 4; column 1, lines 23-34; column 2, lines 48-52; column 3, lines 16-29; column 8, lines 4-23 and column 10, lines 29-43.	1-7, 9, 11-16, 18, 20-24
X	US 6,025,004 A (SPECK et al) 15 February 2000 (15.02.2000), see figure 6 and column 9, line 12 to column 10, line 44.	1-4, 7, 8, 20-24
A	US 3,766,848 A (FRENCH et al) 23 October 1973 (23.10.1973), see figure 1.	1-18, 20-24
A	US 3,834,440 A (MCCRACKEN) 10 September 1974 (10.09.1974), see figure 1.	1-18, 20-24
A	US 3,067,462 A (KULLGREN) 11 December 1962 (11.12.1962), see figure 1 and column 4, lines 15-28.	20
A	US 3,230,865 A (HIBBEL et al) 25 January 1966 (25.01.1966), see figures 1-2.	1-18, 20-24
A	US 3,672,641 A (SLABY) 27 June 1972 (27.06.1972), see figure 1.	1-18, 20-24

<input type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	See patent family annex.
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